

Attorney Docket No. 1867 P 025
Application No. 10/046,451
Page 2

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-22. (Canceled)

Claim 23. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for evaluating the integrity of a seal on a liquid-filled container having a closure, the apparatus comprising:

a clamp having a first and second member for securing a container between the members;

a ram connected to the clamp to provide relative movement between the first and second members; [[and,]]

a liquid-filled tank situated with respect to the clamp such that at least a portion of the container having the closure extends into the tank such that the closure of the container is submerged in the liquid;

means for forming an aperture in the container while being secured in the clamp; and

a support for the aperture forming means, the support being configured to accommodate vertical and horizontal movement of the means for forming an aperture.

Claim 24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the ram is actuated by one of the group consisting of air pressure, hydraulic pressure, and electric motor.

Claim 25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 23 further comprising a seat to support a container in a desired position to be secured by the clamp.

Claim 26. (Canceled)

Attorney Docket No. 1867 P 025

Application No. 10/046,451

Page 3

Claim 27 (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 23 further comprising a support platform which is moveable along a floor surface on devices for reducing friction between the platform and the floor surface, the clamp and the tank being mounted on the platform.

Claim 28. (Canceled)

Claim 29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25 further comprising a support platform which is moveable along a floor surface on devices for reducing friction between the platform and the floor surface, the clamp and the tank being mounted on the platform.

Claims 30-31. (Canceled)

Claim 32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the devices for reducing friction between the platform and the floor surface comprise a plurality of wheels.

Claim 33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the devices for reducing friction between the platform and the floor surface comprise a plurality of wheels.

Claim 34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the platform comprises at least one connector for removably connecting the apparatus to a source of electricity.

Claim 35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the platform comprises at least one connector for removably connecting the apparatus to a source of pressurized air.

Claim 36. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the platform comprises at least one connector for removably connecting the apparatus to a source of electricity.

Claim 37. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the platform comprises at least

Attorney Docket No. 1867 P 025

Application No. 10/046,451

Page 4

one connector for removably connecting the apparatus to a source of pressurized air.

Claim 38. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [[26]] 23 further comprising:

a conductivity evaluating instrument including a first and second electrode, the first electrode being integrated with the means for forming an aperture such that when the means for forming an aperture penetrates a wall of a container, the first electrode is in contact with the liquid in the container without removing the means for forming an aperture from the container; and,

the second electrode of the instrument being immersed in the liquid in the tank.

Claim 39. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [[28]] 25 further comprising:

a conductivity evaluating instrument including a first and second electrode, the first electrode being integrated with the means for forming an aperture such that when the means for forming an aperture penetrates a wall of a container, the first electrode is in contact with the liquid in the container without removing the means for forming an aperture from the container; and,

the second electrode of the instrument being immersed in the liquid in the tank.

Claim 40. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [[26]] 23 further comprising:

a conductivity evaluating instrument including a first and second electrode, the first electrode being moveable and sized such that it can be inserted into an aperture formed in the container and extend into the liquid in the container; and,

the second electrode of the instrument being immersed in the liquid in the tank.

Claim 41. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [[28]] 25 further comprising:

a conductivity evaluating instrument including a first and second electrode, the first electrode being moveable and sized such that it can be inserted into an aperture formed in the container and extend into the liquid in the container; and,

the second electrode of the instrument being immersed in the liquid in the tank.

Attorney Docket No. 1867 P 025
Application No. 10/046,451
Page 5

Claim 42. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 38 wherein the means for forming an aperture in a container is selected from the group consisting of a drill, a heated lance, a mechanical punch and an electrode.

Claim 43. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 39 wherein the means for forming an aperture in a container is selected from the group consisting of a drill, a heated lance, a mechanical punch and an electrode.

Claim 44. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 40 wherein the means for forming an aperture in a container is selected from the group consisting of a drill, a heated lance, a mechanical punch and an electrode.

Claim 45. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 41 wherein the means for forming an aperture in a container is selected from the group consisting of a drill, a heated lance, a mechanical punch and an electrode.

Claims 46-50. (Canceled)

51. (New) An apparatus for evaluating the integrity of a seal on a liquid-filled container having a closure, the apparatus comprising:

- a clamp having a first and second member for securing a container between the members;
- a ram connected to the clamp to provide relative movement between the first and second members;

- a liquid-filled tank situated with respect to the clamp such that at least a portion of the container having the closure extends into the tank such that the closure of the container is submerged in the liquid;

- a seat to support the container in a desired position to be secured by the clamp;

Attorney Docket No. 1867 P 025

Application No. 10/046,451

Page 6

means for forming an aperture in the container while being secured in the clamp; and,
a support for the aperture forming means, the support being configured to accommodate
vertical and horizontal movement of the means for forming an aperture.

52. (New) The apparatus of claim 51 wherein the ram is actuated by one of the group consisting
of air pressure, hydraulic pressure, and electric motor.

53. (New) The apparatus of claim 51 further comprising a support platform which is moveable
along a floor surface, the clamp and the tank being mounted on the platform.

54. (New) The apparatus of claim 51 further comprising:
a conductivity evaluating instrument including a first and second electrode, the first electrode
being integrated with the means for forming an aperture such that when the means for forming an
aperture penetrates a wall of a container, the first electrode is in contact with the liquid in the
container without removing the means for forming an aperture from the container; and,
the second electrode of the instrument being immersed in the liquid in the tank.

55. (New) The apparatus of claim 51 further comprising:
a conductivity evaluating instrument including a first and second electrode, the first electrode
being moveable and sized such that it can be inserted into an aperture formed in the container and
extend into the liquid in the container; and,
the second electrode of the instrument being immersed in the liquid in the tank.

56. (New) The apparatus of claim 51 wherein the means for forming an aperture in a container
is selected from the group consisting of a drill, a heated lance, a mechanical punch and an electrode.